

## REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on April 8, 2003 is acknowledged. Applicants request reexamination of the above-mentioned application in view of the above amendments and remarks which follow. Please amend claim 18, as indicated above, and cancel claim 19.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 – 4 and 18 – 19 under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsuzoe (EP0660655). Specifically, the Examiner alleges that Matsuzoe discloses a transport system for small components arranged in series comprising a chain having a plurality of chain links (2) having a through opening cavity formed therein having at least 2 walls where one wall is rigid and the opposite wall is resilient (see figure 1), a central web (center of 13) having resilient arms (either end of 13) laterally extending therefrom and extending from the full height within the cavity. Applicants disagree with this characterization in that Matsuzoe does not disclose a resilient wall and a rigid wall located opposite one another.

Applicants believe Matsuzoe does not disclose a transport system in which the cavity is defined by a rigid wall located opposite a resilient wall. Rather, Matsuzoe discloses a transport system in which the cavity is defined by two rigid walls 9, 10 located opposite each other. It is clear from Figure 1, that the two walls 9 and 10 have the same rigidity as they extend from opposite ends of the side walls 11. Moreover, two rocking plates 13, located opposite each other, extend from the sidewalls and between the rigid walls 9, 10. Thus, Matsuzoe shows two opposed resilient walls, and two opposed rigid walls. In Matsuzoe, it is not possible to place the component in the cavity in a well-defined manner due to the resiliency of both side walls 13. Applicants believe that claim 1, as originally filed, is not therefore anticipated by Matsuzoe and is in condition for allowance due to the difference between claim 1 and that taught by Matsuzoe, discussed above.

Although the Examiner generally indicated that Matsuzoe disclosed a rigid wall located opposite a resilient wall, based upon the above it is apparent that Matsuzoe only discloses a transport system including a cavity wherein identical walls are located opposite each other. This differs from the claims of the invention of the present application.

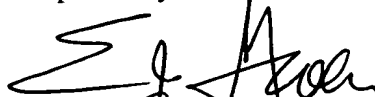
Appl. No. 09/857,353  
Amdt. Dated July 8, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of April 8, 2003

Anticipation under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) requires that the reference teach each and every element as that claimed. It is clear that Matsuzoe does not teach a cavity defined by a rigid wall opposite a resilient wall. This is also the advantage produced by the invention.

In addition, applicants have amended claim 18 to recite the limitation that the cavity is defined by a rigid wall located opposite a resilient wall. Accordingly, applicants now believe that claim 18 is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, as all remaining claims ultimately depend from either claim 1 or claim 18, applicants believe all of the claims currently pending are allowable.

Based upon the amendments to the claims and the amendment to the abstract, applicants believe the current application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request passage thereof. If the Examiner disagrees, applicants request the Examiner contact the undersigned to discuss any outstanding issues. If necessary to effect a timely response, please consider this paper a request for an extension of time, and charge any shortages in fees, or apply any overpayment credits, to Baker & Daniels' Deposit Account No. 02-0387 (72262.90014). However, please do not include the payment of issue fees.

Respectfully submitted,

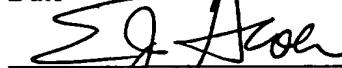


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July 8, 2003

Date



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